

MARKED-UP AMENDED CLAIMS

Claims 1-67. (Cancelled)

68. A method comprising:

using a server to transmit to a client both a television program and a computing application comprising executable code, the executable code to be executed at the client to cause display of interactive information associated with the television program while the television program is being displayed at the client, the interactive information to show or describe an item to a television viewer;

detecting, at the server, a signal representing a viewer interaction with the interactive information, the viewer interaction indicating a selection of the item; and

in response to the viewer interaction, causing an order for the item to be placed.

69. The method of claim 68, wherein the viewer interaction causes display of instructions to solicit information necessary to place the order.

70. The method of claim 69, wherein the information is solicited using one or more of an on-screen display and voice instructions.

71. The method of claim 68, wherein the viewer interaction is by way of a single command.

72. The method of claim 71, wherein the single command is pressing of a single button on a TV remote control.

73. The method of claim 68, wherein causing the order to be placed is achieved by using:
information related to the item and viewer related personal information.

74. The method of claim 73, wherein the personal information includes at least one of the group consisting of the viewer's name, address, method of payment and payment account number.

75. The method of claim 74, wherein the personal information is stored in memory at the client.

76. The method of claim 74, wherein the system further includes a local computer and associated storage and wherein the method further comprises:

using the client to retrieve information from one or more of the local computer and the associated storage.

77. The method of claim 76, wherein the method further comprises:
controlling the client by means of the local computer.

78. The method of claim 76, wherein the local computer is part of a local area network.

79. The method of claim 68, wherein the system further includes a central processing facility in communication with the server and wherein the method comprises:

sending information used in processing the order from the client to the central processing facility.

80. The method of claim 79, further comprising:

communicating information between the client and the server via the central processing facility.

81. The method of claim 79, wherein a telephone system acts as the central processing facility.

82. The method of claim 68, further comprising:

sending an order confirmation to the television viewer to confirm the order.

83. The method of claim 68, wherein the server provides data in a series of multiplexed packets, ones of which contain data representing the video, and others of which represent the executable code.

84. The method of claim 83, wherein the executable code is repetitively transmitted during times that the video is transmitted.

85. The method of claim 83, wherein the client includes a client computer and an auxiliary processor, the method comprising:

using the auxiliary data processor to process data representing the video, and

using the client computer to execute the executable code.

86. The method of claim 85, wherein the client computer and the auxiliary data processor are contained in a set top box.

87. (Currently Amended) A method of facilitating ordering an item using an interactive television system, the method comprising:

receiving, at a client both television programming and a computing application comprising executable code, the television programming and the computing application received in a series of multiplexed packets, ones of which contain data representing the video, and others of which represent the executable code;

executing the executable code to display interactive information associated with the television program contemporaneously with the television program, the interactive information associated with the television program to show or describe an item to the television viewer;

detecting a signal representing a viewer interaction associated with the interactive information, the viewer interaction indicating a selection of the item; and

in response to the viewer interaction, deriving order information from the viewer interaction and sending the order information to the server.

88. The method of claim 87, wherein the viewer interaction causes display of instructions to solicit information necessary to place an order for the item.

89. The method of claim 88, wherein the information is solicited using one or more of an on-screen display and voice instructions.

90. The method of claim 87, wherein the viewer interaction is by way of a single command.

91. The method of claim 90, wherein the single command is pressing of a single button on a TV remote control.

92. The method of claim 87, wherein causing the order to be placed is achieved by using: information related to the item and user related personal information.

93. The method of claim 92, wherein the personal information includes at least one of the group consisting of the user's name, address, method of payment and payment account number.

94. The method of claim 93, wherein the personal information is stored in local memory.

95. The method of claim 87, further comprising:
communicating information via a central processing facility.

96. The method of claim 95, wherein a telephone system acts as the central processing facility.

97. The method of claim 87, further comprising receiving an order confirmation to the user to confirm the order.

98. (Currently Cancelled)

99. The method of claim 87, wherein a client includes a client computer and an auxiliary processor, the method comprising:

using the auxiliary data processor to process data representing the video, and
using the client computer to execute the computing application.

100. The method of claim 99, wherein the client computer and the auxiliary data processor are contained in a set top box.

101. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing to the client both television programming and a computing application comprising executable code, the executable code to be executed at the client to cause display of interactive information associated with the television program while the television program is being displayed at the client, the interactive information associated with the television program to show or describe an item to the television viewer, the television programming and the computing application provided in a series of multiplexed packets, ones of which contain data representing the video, and others of which represent the executable code;

detecting, at the server, a viewer interaction associated with the interactive information, the viewer interaction indicating a selection of the item; and

in response to the viewer interaction, receiving an order for the item.

102. The method of claim 101, wherein the received order includes:

information related to the item and user related personal information.

103. The method of claim 102, wherein the personal information includes at least one of the group consisting of the user's name, address, method of payment and payment account number.

104. (Currently Cancelled)

105. The method of claim 101, wherein the executable code is repetitively transmitted during times that the video is transmitted.

106. An interactive television system comprising:

a server configured to transmit to a client in communication with the server, both television programming and a computing application comprising executable code, the executable code to be executed at the client to cause display of interactive information associated with the television program while the television program is being displayed at the client; the client configured to:

access the computing application;

execute the executable code to cause display of interactive information associated with the television program, while the video associated with the television program is being displayed;

use one or more of the displayed video and the interactive information to show or describe an item to the television viewer;

detect a signal representing a user interaction with the interactive information, the user interaction indicating a selection of the item by the television viewer; and

in response to the interaction, derive order information from the viewer interaction and send the order information to the server.

107. The system of claim 106, wherein the user interaction causes display of instructions to solicit information necessary to cause an order for the item to be placed.

108. The system of claim 107, wherein the information is solicited using one or more of an on-screen display and voice instructions.

109. The system of claim 106, wherein the interaction is by way of a single command.

110. The system of claim 109, wherein the single command is pressing of a single button on a TV remote control.

111. The system of claim 106, wherein causing the order to be placed is achieved by using:
information related to the item and user related personal information.

112. The system of claim 111, wherein the personal information includes at least one of the
group consisting of the user's name, address, method of payment and payment account number.

113. The system of claim 111, wherein the personal information is stored in memory at the
client.

114. The system of claim 111, wherein the system further includes a local computer and
associated storage in communication with the client, and wherein the client is further configured
to retrieve information from one or more of the local computer and the associated storage.

115. The system of claim 106, wherein the client is further configured to be controlled by
means of the local computer.

116. The system of claim 115, further comprising a local area network, and wherein the local
computer is part of the local area network.

117. The system of claim 106, wherein the system further comprises a central processing
facility in communication with the server and wherein the client is further configured to send
information used in processing the order to the central processing facility.

118. The system of claim 117, wherein the client is configured to communicate with the
server via the central processing facility.

119. The system of claim 118, wherein the central processing facility comprises a telephone
system .

120. The system of claim 106, wherein the server is configured to send an order confirmation to the user to confirm the order.

121. The system of claim 106, wherein the server is configured to provide data in a series of multiplexed packets, ones of which contain video data, and others of which contain the computing application.

122. The system of claim 106, wherein the computing application is repetitively transmitted during times that the video is transmitted.

123. The system of claim 106, wherein the client further comprises a client computer and an auxiliary processor, and:

the auxiliary data processor is configured to process data representing the video, and
the client computer is configured to execute the executable code.

124. The system of claim 123, wherein the client computer and the auxiliary data processor are within a set top box.

125. (Currently Amended) An interactive television system, the system comprising:
a receiver configured to receive both television programming and a computing application comprising executable code, the television programming and the computing application received in a series of multiplexed packets, ones of which contain data representing the video, and others of which represent the executable code; and

a processing unit configured to:

execute the computing application to cause display of interactive information associated with the television program, while the television program is being displayed at a display device associated with the processing unit;

use the interactive information associated with the television program to show or describe an item to the television user;

enable the television user to select the item by way of an interaction; and
in response to the interaction, derive order information from the viewer interaction and
send the order information to the server.

126. The system of claim 125, wherein the interaction causes the processing unit to display instructions to solicit information necessary to cause an order for the item to be placed.

127. The system of claim 126, wherein the information is solicited using one or more of an on-screen display and voice instructions.

128. The system of claim 125, wherein the interaction is by way of a single command.

129. The system of claim 128, wherein the single command is pressing of a single button on a TV remote control.

130. The system of claim 125, wherein the processing unit is configured to cause the order to be placed using:

information related to the item and user related personal information.

131. The system of claim 130, wherein the personal information includes at least one of the group consisting of the user's name, address, method of payment and payment account number.

132. The system of claim 130, further comprising a local memory to store the personal information memory.

133. The system of claim 125, further comprising a central processing facility to communicate information.

134. The system of claim 133, the central processing system comprises a telephone system.

135. The system of claim 125, further comprising a further receiver configured to receive an order confirmation to confirm the order.

136. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 125, ~~wherein the data comprises a series of multiplexed packets, ones of which contain video data, and others of which contain the computing application,~~ the system including a first extractor configured to extract the video and a second extractor configured to extract the computing application from the series of data packets.

137. The system of claim 125, including:
an auxiliary data processor configured to process the video, and
a client computer configured to execute the computing application, the unit being associated with the client computer.

138. The system of claim 137, wherein the client computer and the auxiliary data processor comprise a set top box.

139. (Currently Amended) An interactive television system to order an item, the system comprising:
a ~~first module server~~ configured to transmit, using a server, to the client both television programming and a computing application comprising executable code, the executable code to be executed at the client to cause display of interactive information associated with the television program while the television program is being displayed at the client, the interactive information to show or describe an item to a television user and to enable the television user to select the item by interacting with the client; and
a ~~receiver~~ second module configured to detect a signal representing a television user interaction with the interactive information, the television user interaction indicating a selection of the item and cause ~~receive~~ an order for the item to be placed in response to the television user interaction ~~interacting with the client~~.

140. The system of claim 139, wherein the received order includes:

information related to the item and user related personal information.

141. The system of claim 140, wherein the personal information includes at least one of the group consisting of the television user's name, address, method of payment and payment account number.

142. The system of claim 139, wherein the server is configured to provide the data in a series of multiplexed packets, ones of which contain data representing the video, and others of which represent the computing application.

143. The system of claim 139, wherein the server is configured to repetitively transmit at least a portion of the computing application during times that the video is transmitted.

144-245. (Cancelled)

246. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium embodying a sequence of instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

receiving both a television program and a computing application comprising executable code, the television programming and a computing application comprising executable code received in a series of multiplexed packets, ones of which contain data representing the video, and others of which represent the executable code;

causing the television program to be displayed;

executing the executable code to cause display of interactive information, while the television program is being displayed;

using the interactive information to show or describe an item to a television user;

enabling the television user to select the item by way of an interaction; and

in response to the interaction, derive order information from the viewer interaction and send the order information to the server.

247. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory machine-readable storage medium embodying a sequence of instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

using a server, transmit ~~provide~~ to a client a television program and a computing application comprising executable code, the executable code to cause display, at the client, of interactive information associated with the television program, while the television program is being displayed at the client, the interactive information associated with the television program to show or describe an item to the television viewer;

detect, at the server, a viewer interaction associated with the interactive information, the viewer interaction indicating a selection of the item; and

in response to the viewer interaction, receiving an order for the item.

248 - 263. (Currently Cancelled)